

From: Frankster
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 6:52am
Subject: comments on ms antitrust trial

Hi,

I think that the proposed settlement seriously fails in a lot of ways. I think the most significant of these is that there is no requirement to disclose file formats of the office line of products.

Microsoft Office is the de facto standard in office software. Therefore any software which seeks to compete must be able to read the MS Office file format completely and accurately. Because MS do not release details of the office format, anyone seeking to write a competing application must reverse engineer the format of the files. Inevitably it will not be possible to understand the format completely and accurately so other software products will come across as inferior if they fail to translate accurately, thus creating a barrier of entry.

I think the remedies could be more effective if they required microsoft to disclose full and complete details of the file formats for all products.

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